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Board tackles special-needs school lawsuit

Statement of defence.
'Isolated set of interests' guiding action: Calgary Board of Education

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary's public school board has countered a lawsuit attempting to block development of a special-needs school in a northwest neighbourhood, claiming plaintiffs or representatives have specifically raised concerns about the intelligence of students and the intended purpose of the facility.

The Calgary Board of Education's statement of defence comes in response to a claim from perturbed landowners in the community of Varsity, many of whom have property backing onto a park that could be partially used for a new Christine Meikle School.

The lawsuit, first reported by Metro earlier this month, seeks to gain an injunction preventing the development and to have the land turned over to the City of Calgary. Plaintiffs are also seeking damages for alleged loss of property value and the "high-handed conduct" of the Calgary Board of Education, which is steering the development.

But the CBE's statement of defence, filed Tuesday, said the 30 listed plaintiffs "seek to advance an isolated set of interests which are contrary to the best interests of the citizens of the City of Calgary."

The defence filing strikes at the basis of the residents' statement of claim that the CBE had a legal obligation under the Municipal Government Act to hand the green space over to the City of Calgary after it declared the land as "surplus."

Specifically, the document states that "the School Lands are not and have not been designated as surplus lands" and, legally, have "maintained their character as reserve land." The board referenced a 2012 move to ensure the land remained for a school.

Emotions have run high among critics of the lawsuit, including Christine Herman, daughter of the famed special-needs advocate for whom both the current and future schools are named.

CBE officials have said the current Meikle facility in Bridgeland is severely outdated and doesn't serve the needs of its current crop of 75 students, many of whom are in wheelchairs.

Reached Wednesday, Herman said she's sticking by her beliefs that the lawsuit is the "lowest of the low."

"(The Varsity residents') dogs go there and do their business and now they're going to have to go somewhere else," she said. "I think it comes down to that simple thing."

A number of the listed plaintiffs have declined requests for interviews and their legal representative, Richard John, did not respond to an email request for an interview Tuesday.

In a previous statement, the only one he's provided on the lawsuit, John said the matter "does not address the nature of the facility" that's being planned for the park.

But the CBE's claim alleges the plaintiffs or at least one of their representatives have "focused on the special needs of the students and the nature of the school."

The board said questions were raised about the I.Q. of students with special needs and suggestions were made that Meikle is actually a medical facility and "would be used for the purpose of parking students with special needs to give the students' parents a break."

The CBE has said it hopes to have Meikle ready for students come September 2016.

None of the allegations on either side has been proven in court.

SPLASH OF SUMMER

Savannah Gerritsen, 9, and friend Andrew Crawford, 2, take in the nice summer weather at the recently renovated Prairie Winds Spray Park on Wednesday. The spray park, along with renovated wading pool, reopened Wednesday and will be open until Sept. 14, weather permitting.

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By the numbers

City's 'living wage' calculated at $17.29/hour

Calgarians need to earn $17.29 an hour to make a "living wage," according to calculations based on a national formula that takes into account local costs of living.

"And that is a very conservative number," said Kathryn Cormier of Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC), which arrived at the figure based on standardized calculations developed by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

VCC has calculated its own living wage using a different formula that most recently came out to $14.50 an hour, Cormier said.

The figure is intended to convey what one needs to make to pay for housing, food, transportation and other essentials.

"It's simply to meet basic needs and provide a little bit of economic security," Cormier said.

Coun. Brian Pincott said he wasn't surprised by the number.

"It confirms we're an expensive city," he said Wednesday. "For me, the challenge in this is that it highlights the growing disparity in our city between the haves and have-nots."

According to the most recent data from Statistics Canada, Calgarians had the highest incomes of any major urban residents in Canada, but Pincott said there are still many people in the city who are "just barely getting by."

Based on a 35-hour work week, the "living wage" works out to a $31,470 annual salary.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Calgary Transit riders may someday be able to turn to their smartphones to report criminal activity. METRO FILE

Crime-busting text service soon to be tested by transit

Pilot project. Potential new service a sign of the times, says safety boss

Riders may soon be able to send text-message alerts to peace officers about ne'er-do-wells aboard or near buses and C-Trains.

Brian Whitelaw, safety and enforcement co-ordinator for Calgary Transit, said his department is "actively looking" at a crime-reporting system using customers' smartphones and will likely launch a pilot to test such software later this year.

"We're in discussions with potential vendors; we're taking a look at the software," Whitelaw said. "We recognize — customers tell us — that it can be scary to be that person who's going to stand up and go to the intercom aboard a train."

Data indicates that disorder-related calls and violent crimes involving the transit system have been on the decline in recent years, but Whitelaw said the text-message service could also provide riders with a bit of reassurance should things go sideways.

He said transit officials in Boston appear to be leading the way with such a safety offering for customers, but he believes the industry as a whole will begin to shift toward better use of smartphone technology.

"We hope to be there soon," Whitelaw added.

He stressed that customers witnessing crimes are still encouraged to distance themselves by switching train cars before reporting an incident in progress. In the most serious cases, he said, 911 will still be the best method to alert authorities.

Whitelaw said such a mass-notification system has benefits with regards to alerting customers to potential issues because information can be better controlled than it is on social media.

A report produced by the Manning Foundation last year included a text-message service among recommendations to improve perceptions of safety on the city transit system. Reached Wednesday, representative Stephanie Kusie welcomed word of the planned pilot project.

She said ready access to a crime-reporting tool could help stop, for example, the rising number of bus shelters being damaged in the city.

"If the investment in this technology and this pilot project will allow Calgarians the opportunity to feel safer when taking transit and encourage them to take transit, we would absolutely support that," Kusie said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

An example abroad

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's text-message safety line is highlighted online: "Did you know you can send crime tips to the MBTA transit police and remain 100 per cent anonymous? Simply text your tip/message to 873873 to help out and/or report suspicious activity. Message and data rates may apply."

Councillors clash over choice for eventual LRT 'Green Line'

Centre Street. Chu says he learned of decision on Tuesday, but city sent him a memo on Aug. 12

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgary Transit's long-term plan to build an LRT line on Centre Street could result in the city fighting lawsuits and paying compensation to construction-affected businesses, according to a city councillor who represents much of the proposed route.

Ward 4 Coun. Sean Chu raised many concerns Wednesday about a decision to favour Centre Street over Edmonton Trail for the eventual "Green Line," which would run from north-central Calgary to the city's deep southeast.

Chief among Chu's complaints was what he described as a lack of notice from city staff about the choice.

"It was kind of interesting that I didn't know anything about it," Chu said, adding that he learned about it via Twitter on Tuesday night. "This is a big thing — many billion dollars — so maybe the councillors should be notified."

However, a memo obtained by Metro indicates councillors were notified on Aug. 12.

Sent from transit director Doug Morgan to all members of council, the memo states that project staff will "focus the final phase of analysis on the Centre Street alignment" rather than Edmonton Trail.

Coun. Brian Pincott said he received the memo and wasn't surprised, as he believes Centre is the more viable choice.

"I think we received ... plenty of notice," Pincott said.

Chu, however, said he still believes the Green Line — which wouldn't be built until the next decade, at the earliest — would be better suited to run along Edmonton Trail, as there would be "less disruption of businesses" and "more redevelopment opportunity."

He said the city should also be wary of lawsuits from businesses if major construction affects their customer traffic, as Vancouver saw when it built the Canada Line extension of the SkyTrain ahead of the 2010 Olympics.

"There's always that possibility," Chu said.

The Vancouver lawsuits ultimately proved unsuccessful, however, with the biggest case being dismissed by the B.C. Court of Appeal and a further appeal rejected by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mac Logan, the city's general manager of transportation, said in July that the city does not have a practice of "compensating businesses directly" for lost revenue during construction, although it does take steps — at taxpayers' expense — to minimize disruption to local retailers.

This transit-only lane and a similar northbound lane along Centre Street opened in November 2012. Calgary Transit eventually aims to build an LRT line down the busy north-south roadway. METRO FILE

Zoo withholds specifics on death of sage grouse chicks

A male sage grouse on the plains of Butte County, S.D., in a 2011 photo.
USFWS MOUNTAIN-PRAIRIE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Calgary Zoo officials concede that some chicks hatched as part of their new sage grouse breeding program have died, but refuse to delve into specifics, despite repeated requests in recent weeks.

Metro first requested an update on the program in early July, a month after the zoo invited media to learn more about their program, which aims to establish a captive population to help save the species from extinction.

It was said in June that 13 grouse eggs had hatched but two chicks did not survive.

When asked for an update in July, zoo spokeswoman Trish Exton-Parder said in an email, "Unfortunately, we have lost some chicks over the last couple of weeks."

She added, "However, it is too soon to comment with specifics; we will provide further updates on the outcome of the program in the months ahead."

Exton-Parder noted there is a 94 per cent mortality rate for grouse eggs laid in the wild — it's believed there are only 138 birds remaining in Canada.

"Despite the risks, we cannot afford not to be involved in trying to save the species," Exton-Parder said.

An update on the program was again requested in late July, but an emailed response from another spokesperson said, "It's is still too early in the program to speak about the progress. As we said earlier, we will provide an update in the coming months."

A third request was made last week. This time the hope was to snap a photo of the chicks.

"Still too early — we'll provide an update in the coming months," read the response.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Westmount Centre

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Peter Pond Shopping Centre
Stoneycreek Village

GRANDE PRAIRIE
Prairie Mall
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Legendary wrestlers Davey Boy Smith, from left, Stu Hart and son Bret Hart are seen feuding over a championship title in this supplied archival photo. Bret has now commissioned the creation of a belt, inset, in honour of his father, who died in 2003. Among those that will compete for the belt at this weekend's X-Fest are David Hart Smith, son of Davey Boy, who died in 2002. COURTESY BRET HART

Bret Hart to award wrestling title in honour of father

Stu Hart. Wrestlers to perform alongside musicians at X-Fest

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

A big crowd, a nice day and just maybe a performance fit for WrestleMania — three things Stu Hart lived for.

And it's what famed Calgary wrestler Bret Hart is hoping for as he hosts his first invitational tournament and prepares to award a championship belt made in honour of his pioneering father to a young up-and-comer.

The wrestling spectacle will be staged during band setups at this weekend's X-Fest at Fort Calgary, and Bret is confident he'll turn headbangers into faithful wrestling fans.

"It's going to fit just perfect," he said. "I think they (the fans) are going to be surprised how much they like throwing in a little wrestling."

After Sunday's tournament finale, Bret will enter the ring and wrap the Stu Hart Championship Belt around the victor. The belt was commissioned by famed belt creator Reg Parks, who over the years has made many of the titles draped over the shoulders of wrestling legends such as Hulk Hogan, Stone Cold Steve Austin and, of course, Calgary's own Hitman.

Among those competing for the prize will be David Hart Smith, son of Davey Boy Smith (who was known in the ring as The British Bulldog) and grandson of Stu Hart. He'll be joined by other rising stars like Calgarian Raj Singh, who was recently cut by the WWE, and Cowboy James Storm.

Stu Hart is a legend in wrestling circles. He was a respected performer in the ring but gained much of his fame for training many superstars in the basement of the Hart family mansion, an unforgiving space known as The Dungeon.

Stu also established the storied Calgary promotion Stampede Wrestling in the late 1940s and Bret said it feels like something's missing in the city these days without a routine wrestling card. This weekend's event will pay tribute to a piece of Calgary's history, he said.

"I get stopped at Safeway and all kinds of places, with people talking to me about wrestling," he said.

"They talk to me as much about Stampede Wrestling as they do my WWE career and I think that says a lot — they miss it."

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A mother bear and cub walk along a highway in Jasper National Park. Parks Canada hopes upgraded fencing and wildlife crossings to the south in Kootenay National Park will keep large animals off of Highway 93 South. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Highway to see $9.6M in fencing, wildlife crossings

Kootenay National Park. Money provided under Ottawa's National Conservation Plan

Bears, moose and other large animals will be further separated from high-speed traffic on Highway 93 South in Kootenay National Park, with $9.6 million in federal funding for extended fencing and wildlife crossings.

The high-traffic route, also known as the Banff Windermere Parkway, is frequented by forest creatures but doesn't have full roadside fencing as do large stretches of the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park to the north.

Earlier this year, Parks Canada closed some areas adjacent to Highway 93 South and urged motorists to refrain from stopping their vehicles, due to a mother bear and cubs that were frequenting the side of the road.

The federal funds will pay for roughly 6.5 kilometres of additional fencing and at least four wildlife crossings.

The changes "will increase motorist safety and wildlife conservation in the heart of the mountain national parks," Oshawa MP Dr. Colin Carrie, who serves as the parliamentary secretary to the federal environment minister, said in a statement.

Parks Canada credits the highway fencing and wildlife crossings in Banff National Park with an 80 per cent reduction in animal-vehicle collisions as a whole and a 96 per cent reduction in deer and elk collisions, specifically.

"It took up to five years for some wary species, like grizzly bears, to start using wildlife crossing structures; however, most species are now using them to safely cross the Trans-Canada Highway," Parks states online. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Safety

The upgraded fencing and additional crossings is expected to reduce the likelihood of animal collisions on Highway 93 South.

- To the north, Banff National Park has more than 82 kilometres of highway fencing and 44 wildlife crossing structures.
- Large animals, including bears and cougars, have crossed the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff more than 150,000 times via an overpass or underpass, according to Parks Canada data.

Finance. Province to borrow $3B less

The Alberta government says rising energy prices and a stronger than expected economy means the province will have to borrow almost $3 billion less than it had planned this year to build roads, hospitals and schools.

The province's first-quarter update says borrowing for capital projects is now forecast to be just over $2 billion in 2014-15 — down from $4.8 billion in the last budget.

The overall projected surplus for the year has grown by $300 million since the budget to almost $1.4 billion.

Finance Minister Doug Horner said revenue is up due to higher energy forecasts and stronger corporate income taxes.

"I can say with confidence that I believe we have turned the corner financially," Horner said Wednesday. "When it comes to Alberta's economic indicators, everything is looking up."

NDP Leader Brian Mason said things will head south as soon as oil prices drop and it's time the province stops depending on such an unstable revenue source for daily operations.

"While it is up now, it will be down tomorrow, and unless we can get off the royalty roller-coaster, we are going to continue the situation where, when the price of oil drops, we are laying off nurses and teachers," Mason said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Earl Grey Golf Club

Golf course gets a bear scare

Golfers at a southwest Calgary course had an unexpected hazard cross their paths Wednesday, with a black bear roaming the fairways.

Andy Paulich was on the second fairway at the Earl Grey Golf Club when he caught a glimpse of the bruin.

"I just happened to look over my shoulder and at that point I saw a bear charging up the fairway," he said.

The bear was corralled by golfers into the corner of the course's driving range, where it stayed before running off into the adjacent community of Lakeview.

Police and Fish and Wildlife officers responded to the scene. Eventually, the bear had jumped into the Glenmore reservoir and swam away. Officers remained on scene to investigate.

KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

Facing charges

Man arrested in connection with bystander shooting

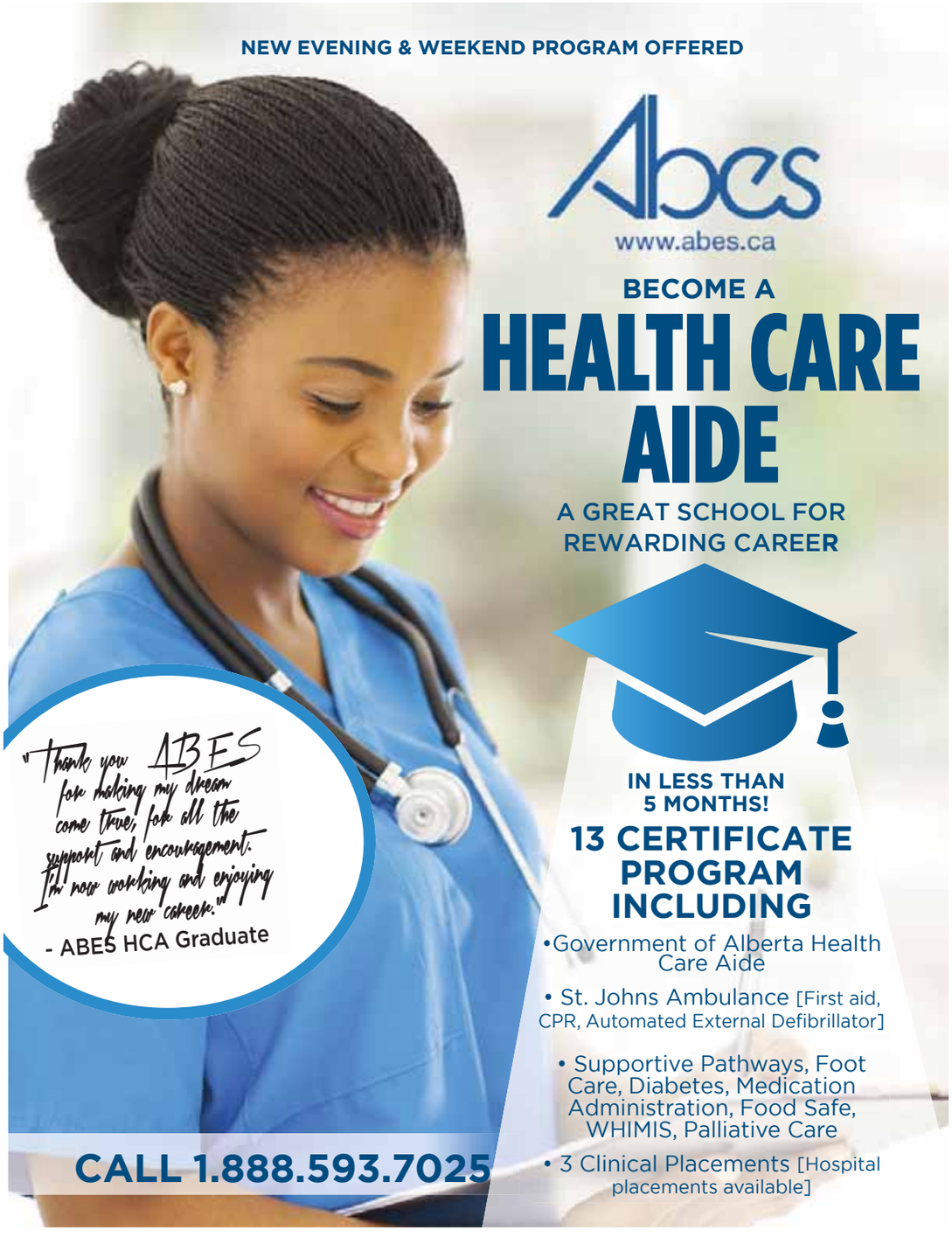
Calgary police have arrested a man in relation to a weekend shooting.

Police arrested the man at a residence in the 6600 block of Ranchview Drive NW. He is one of the three men who were previously released from custody earlier this week in relation to the shooting death of Natasha Mohamed Farah.

The man is facing one count of reckless use of a firearm. His role in the shooting is still under investigation.

Police ask any witnesses of the event to step forward with information.

Another man, arrested earlier this week, remains in custody on a Canada-wide warrant, based in Toronto, for attempted murder. METRO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Danny the police dog is shown in this recent handout photo. A police dog whose partner was one of the Mounties shot and killed in New Brunswick in June is going back to work. COURTESY RCMP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slain RCMP officer's loyal dog will soon return to work

Danny the German shepherd. A spokesman says Danny has been at the training centre this summer to bond with a new handler

A police dog who tugged at heartstrings across the country when he rose on his hind legs at his slain partner's funeral to sniff his Stetson is going back to work.

Danny the German shepherd has been spending time at the RCMP Police Dog Service Training centre in the central Alberta community of Innisfail.

Danny's handler, Const. David Ross, was one of three officers shot and killed in Moncton, N.B., on June 4 by a man who has since pleaded guilty.

An RCMP spokesman says Danny has been at the training centre on and off this summer, retraining and bonding with a new handler.

The two are expected to return to policing "in the near future."

Insp. Andre Lemyre, officer in charge of RCMP police dog services, held a media event at the training centre Wednesday to update Danny's status.

"There has been a public swell of interest in Danny and his future," Lemyre said.

"I want to thank all Canadians for the support and compassion they've shared since the passing of our fallen members, and for Danny and his future."

The RCMP would not reveal Danny's new posting or any information pertaining to his new handler.

"What's important now is that Danny and his new handler be given the opportunity to perform their duties to the highest standard," said Lemyre, "We want to give them both every opportunity to succeed and thrive in their new partnership." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danny's resumé

Danny was born Sept. 7, 2011, at the training centre and at eight weeks of age was sent to Vancouver Island to be raised and imprinted by an RCMP member and aspiring dog handler.

Leaders call for roundtable on plight of native women

Demand for federal action. Premiers still want inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women but willling to compromise

P.E.I. Premier Robert Ghiz
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's premiers and aboriginal leaders are inviting the federal government to participate in a roundtable to address the high number of native women who are missing and murdered.

Premier Robert Ghiz of Prince Edward Island said while the premiers and native leaders would still like to see a public inquiry, they agreed to a compromise in the hopes of federal involvement.

"If we know we're not going to get somewhere, there's no point in us putting our head in the sand and saying, 'OK, we're done with it,'" Ghiz told a news conference Wednesday after hosting a meeting with aboriginal leaders and his provincial counterparts in Charlottetown.

"We believe that it's better to compromise and open up the first line of discussions rather than to just sit back and say, 'Well, I guess we'll wait for the next election and see what happens.'"

Ghiz said he would like to see federal cabinet ministers such as those in the portfolios of justice and aboriginal affairs participate in the roundtable, though he added the proposal was still preliminary.

Prior to the meeting, Saskatchewan's Brad Wall expressed his support for the idea.

"I don't think anyone wants another ponderous, interminable process where we don't have action and results," Wall said.

"I think what we can achieve as premiers and as a country, if the federal government would engage, is an event and an exchange of best practices that's informed by action."

Wall said the provinces have already set up something similar for health-care innovation. He said the forum should look at the justice system, First Nations education and also focus on the responsibilities of aboriginal groups.

The premier said there have been 29 studies and reports on aboriginal issues since 1996 that have produced more than 500 recommendations and the forum could look at what action has been taken on those ideas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iqaluit

Fire crews work to extinguish 'dumpcano'

Fire crews are getting ready to start pumping water on a fire in the Iqaluit city dump that has been smouldering since May.

"We're trying to set up and trying to put water onto this thing," fire chief Luc Grandmaison said Wednesday.

"We're putting all the equipment together and (hope to) be able to pump from the sea."

The fire, known locally as the "dumpcano," has been burning deep within a massive pile of garbage.

The combustion is centred somewhere within untold numbers of household garbage bags, in a section of the dump about the size of a football field and up to four storeys deep.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Study: Hunger may be stunting Inuit kids' growth

Food insecurity. Paper published in Canadian health journal raises concerns of 'long-term implications' for kids in Arctic Quebec

Hunger among Inuit families is so prevalent in Arctic Quebec that it could explain why almost half their children are shorter than average, new research suggests.

A paper published in the Journal of the Canadian Public Health Association says the height discrepancy implies that food insecurity is a long-running problem — not just something that happens occasionally.

"The observed association between food insecurity and linear growth suggests that the diet quality and quantity of children from food-insecure households had been compromised for a long time," the paper says.

There have been numerous studies in recent years documenting food insecurity in the North, which is defined as occurring when a family feels there isn't enough on the table and either children or adults have to eat less as a result.

Wednesday's study by researchers affiliated with Laval University is believed to be the first to look into the physical consequences. They looked at 294 children between the ages of eight and 14 from several villages in Nunavik, the name for northern Quebec. About half of those children came from homes considered food-insecure. They found a high correlation between slow growth rates and food insecurity.

"Food-insecure children were significantly shorter in stature, by an average of two centimetres, than their food-secure counterparts," the report says. "For children of this age group, this is close to half a year's growth."

They also found children from hungry families tended to be more anemic.

"The results of this study raise concerns about the long-term implications of food insecurity for Nunavik," the report concludes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hurricane Marie whipping up wicked waves

A boogie boarder rides a wave in Newport Beach, Calif., on Wednesday. Southern California beachgoers experienced surf much higher than normal, brought on as Hurricane Marie spun off the coast of Mexico.

CHRIS CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivor Rupinder Kang with her daughter Mannisha

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Researchers test adaptability of the 'walking' fish

Walk, don't swim.
Scientists have found the Polypterus fish is able to walk more efficiently if living exclusively on land

A Polypterus senegalus, or "walking" fish, walks by using its fins and body for support. ANTOINE MORIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Research conducted at McGill University has studied the effect of a lifetime of walking on a certain type of fish.

The findings, published in the journal Nature, suggest much about the evolution of anatomy such as arms and legs.

"What we wanted to pin down was: If you change the environment of this fish, does it change its behaviour or does its anatomy change?" said Emily Standen, now at the University of Ottawa.

Her team started with a fish called Polypterus, a fish with both lungs and gills that can live in water or on land. Standen divided their fish into two groups — half on land, half in water. The team found the fish on land developed beefier muscles and became more efficient walkers than their marine counterparts.

Standen said plasticity (a term scientists use to describe an animal's capacity to adapt) in this case indicates animals have an inherent ability to evolve and live in novel environments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burmese star tortoise born in Toronto Zoo

A Toronto Zoo employee holds a newly hatched Burmese star tortoise in Toronto in this recent handout photo. The Toronto Zoo has announced what it says is the first hatching of a Burmese star tortoise in Canada.
TORONTO ZOO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A year after 'rape chant' incident, St. Mary's unveils new initiatives

'Commitment' to safety. Code of conduct revamp, workshops and new orientation style among changes highlighted

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
halifax@metronews.ca

Dr. Colin Dodds, president of Saint Mary's University, speaks during a news conference on the school's campus on Wednesday. PATRICK MCKENNA/FOR METRO IN HALIFAX

Nearly a year after Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia made national headlines for the infamous "rape chant" incident, student Katelyn McLeod believes it's time to move on.

"Just because of that one bad incident it put a black name on us," the fourth-year psychology major said Wednesday.

She described that following the aftermath of the event, where a video went viral showing a group of frosh week leaders leading students in a chant glorifying non-consensual sex with underage girls, the student body has been under fire from the community.

"Everyone around us judged us," she said. "As a student, when you say you are from SMU, everyone was like, 'Oh, were you a part of the (chant)?'"

But McLeod isn't the only one ready for a reputation change. In a news conference Wednesday, members of a university action team formed in response to last year's incident unveiled a number of new initiatives the university has launched to prevent sexual violence on campus.

"Our commitment is to have ... promotion of a safe, inclusive, respectful working environment for our students, our faculty, our staff and the wider community," university president Dr. Colin Dodds said.

Dr. Esther Enns, dean of the university's faculty of education, chaired the panel as they gave a six-month update on a list of 20 recommendations they were tasked with implementing. Creating an understanding around consent was one of the top priorities.

"(Consent) is a safety issue for us at the university and it's a safety issue at any university," she said.

One of main changes includes the introduction of a new set of training safety videos that debunk myths around sexual assault.

Revamping the university's code of conduct to take more action against sexual violence, planning a number of workshops on sexual health and the launch of a new style of orientation called Welcome Week were among the other changes highlighted.

"(Orientation) isn't about the one or two weeks at the beginning of September," said student union executive vice-president James Patriquin. "We've realized that driving cultural change is a year-long process."

Welcome change

The newly named Welcome Week will feature more than 24 activities that prepare students for all aspects of university life, ranging from sessions on alcohol abuse to keynote speeches on diversity and sexuality issues.

London, Ont.

Western Gazette pulls controversial articles from site

Western University's student newspaper in London, Ont., has apologized and pulled three controversial articles from its website.

The Western Gazette's editorial board issued a statement Wednesday afternoon saying, in part, "our aim was to put out an entertaining issue for first-year students and Western as a whole. It's clear that we have failed to do that and, for that, we apologize."

The articles, one of which advised stalking teaching assistants on social media to score a date, sparked furor on social media over the weekend.

Critics said the other two articles that have been pulled promoted drinking and gave a guide to drug use.

All appeared in the paper's Frosh Issue.

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Uzi fatality stirs kids and guns debate

Girl, 9, kills instructor. Comments on social media ask why child was allowed to use an automatic weapon

The death of a firing-range instructor at the hands of a nine-year-old girl bracing an Uzi submachine gun has set off a powerful debate over youngsters and guns, with many people wondering what sort of parents would let a child handle an Uzi.

As the girl opened fire at a target, the recoil wrenched the fully automatic weapon upward, and the instructor Charles Vacca, 39, was shot in the head and killed Monday at the Last Stop outdoor shooting range in Arizona.

Many on social media expressed sympathy for the girl while questioning whether the adults at the gun range were to blame.

Sam Scarmardo, who operates the shooting range, said Wednesday that the girl's parents had signed waivers saying they understood the rules of the range and were standing nearby, video-recording their daughter, when the accident happened.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-gun culture

Arizona has long had a strong pro-gun culture, including weapon ranges that promote events for children and offer people the thrill of firing weapons such as the Uzi which are generally illegal to own.

TV show turns fatally real

A crime lab technician walks past bullet-riddled windows at a Wendy's in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday. A crew member with the Cops reality TV show was killed when police interrupted a robbery Tuesday night at the fast-food restaurant and opened fire on a suspect who also died, the production company behind the television show said Wednesday. NATI HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago lawsuit

Men claim driver ordered them out for kissing in cab

Two Chicago men sued a taxi company this week, alleging a driver tried to kick them out of his cab because they shared a short kiss.

The lawsuit contends Matthew McCrea gave Steven White, his boyfriend, a one-second-long kiss during a ride from the airport, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

The men said the driver then pulled over on the expressway and ordered them out of the cab.

The driver, who is not named in the lawsuit, previously told the Sun-Times he pulled the car over to ask the couple to stop kissing, but he wasn't kicking them out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Police searching for baby stolen by fake talent agent

Brazilian police are searching for a newborn child stolen by a phoney talent agent in Rio de Janeiro.

Police inspector Lucia Baptista says 17-day-old Kayzo was taken Tuesday by a woman who identified herself as a talent agent and offered the mother the equivalent of $66 for the baby to appear in a television program.

Baptista said that after apparently reaching an agreement, the 17-year-old mother asked the woman to hold the baby because she was feeling ill. The woman then fled.

Baptista said that images from security cameras are helping police identify the woman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadians pay high price for paper bills, statements: Report

... Roughly $500M high. As much as $102M in fees are being paid by low-income Canadians, seniors who don't have Internet access at home

Canadians are probably paying more than half a billion dollars a year to receive printed bills and bank statements by mail, suggests a report released Wednesday by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

The consumer research organization polled more than 2,000 Canadians and found about three-quarters of the respondents objected to being charged fees for paper copies of their bills and balances.

While there are no official numbers disclosed by the banking and telecommunications industries stating how much money is being paid annually for paper bills and balances, PIAC estimates the total is "conservatively" between $495 million and $734 million, plus taxes. As much as $102 million in fees are being paid by low-income Canadians and seniors who don't have Internet access at home or don't use computers, suggests the report, which was funded in part by Industry Canada.

John Lawford, PIAC executive director, said he'd love for companies to reveal exactly how much they collect for paper bills.

"They don't want to release it because it's supposedly competitively sensitive, which I don't really think it is ... and then secondly I think it's embarrassing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New agreement?

On Thursday, the country's big telecommunications companies are set to meet with the CRTC about the issue, and an agenda suggests there could be a new agreement reached by the end of the day.

Outcry prompts shirt recall

Spanish fashion retailer Inditex said Wednesday it has withdrawn a children's shirt that triggered an outcry from people who said it was reminiscent of the clothes Jews were made to wear at Nazi concentration camps.

The long-sleeved shirt with horizontal dark stripes and a six-pointed yellow star on the left side of the chest prompted a storm on social media, with many people finding the shirt distasteful because it conjured up memories of the Holocaust.

Shirt withdrawn by Inditex SCREENSHOT

"It was only on sale for a few hours, only online. It didn't hit the stores," said a spokeswoman for Inditex, which owns the chain Zara, where the shirt was sold. "It was withdrawn this morning."

Inditex said the shirt was designed to be part of a Wild West clothing theme and the star was intended as a sheriff's badge and had "nothing to do with the Second World War."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suzuki caught in spider web

Spiders have forced Suzuki to recall more than 19,000 midsize cars. The automaker says spider webs can clog a fuel vapour vent hose in some 2010 to 2013 Kizashi cars, cutting off air flow. If that happens, it can cause the gas tank to deform, causing cracks, fuel leaks and possible fires. The recall was prompted by seven reports of the problem. Service centres will replace the vent line with one that has a filter on the end. They'll also replace gas tanks if necessary. The problem hasn't caused any accidents or injuries in the U.S., Suzuki said in documents posted Wednesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Owners will be notified this month. Those with questions can call Suzuki customer service at (800) 934-0934. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Lacey Jonas

Lohan sued for publicity: Video game makers

The makers of the "Grand Theft Auto" video games say Lindsay Lohan sued to get attention when she asserted the games' latest installment features a character based on her.

In Manhattan court papers made public Tuesday, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. maintain it was "filed for publicity purposes." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online network

Quite a Twitch

Online network Twitch, which boasts 55 million monthly users — most of whom watch live and recorded footage of other people playing video games — has become one of the world's biggest sources of Internet traffic.

Amazon's commitment to purchase Twitch for nearly $1 billion this week is an acknowledgement that the service's loyal fan base present enormous opportunity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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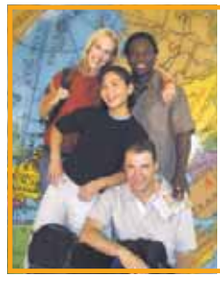
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SLOVENLY MAN'S GUIDE TO BEING A GOOD ROOMIE

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

As students head out to university, many for the first time, it's important to consider how to find a roommate and how to ensure they do all the cleaning.

Trust me, kids. Cleaning is the worst. For reasons that are now becoming clear to me, it's been many years since I've had a roommate.

But if there's one thing I took away from my time sharing a space with a near-stranger, it's that if he bought all the cleaning supplies, then clearly he should do the cleaning. It's the same setup as when I was with my parents. What could be more homey?

It's a simple matter of compatibility.

If I found a dead animal in my apartment, I would put a Glade Plug-In in its mouth and maybe Febreeze the carcass, if I thought it needed it. Balance dictates that my roommate should be a neat freak who wipes down surfaces even when — get this — there is nothing growing on them.

Cleanliness out of the way, here are a few basic guidelines that will get you and your roomie off to a great start:

Screening your roommate:

• Discover who is the alpha by pecking at the person's head until someone relents.

• Be sure to complete BuzzFeed's What Kind of Roommate Are You? quiz.

• Things will run more smoothly if you choose someone on the same schedule as you: Up past midnight procrastinating, a two-hour anxiety wakeup between 3 and 5, and a panicked 7:45 scramble to your 8 a.m. class.

Settling in:

• Get out ahead on being "the weird one."

• Agree on a theme for the apartment, such as Arabian Nights or The Blair Witch Project.

• It's customary to say a few words about the Eternally Soaking Frying Pan before you place it in the sink, never to be removed again.

• Explain to your roommate early on that you are the type of person who would prefer not to be murdered in your sleep, so as to avoid any future arguments.

Long-term compatibility:

• In today's post 9/11 world, NEVER leave your bags alone in your apartment.

• If your roommate has a boyfriend or girlfriend, put them at ease by letting them know that they can make as much noise in the bedroom as they want, morning, noon or night.

• If your roommate is doing all the maintenance, ask for a rent reduction since they're obviously getting more out of the place.

• Remember that the passive aggressiveness you cultivate with your roommate will be useful as you climb the corporate ladder and navigate your first couple of marriages.

• Don't let things fester, especially flesh wounds.

• You paid half the damage deposit. You get to smash only your half.

• If you're both jerkwads, get a reality-TV camera crew in there, stat. If you're both happy and laughing all the time, consider stock photography. And remember, if you have any run-ins with your roommate, the simplest solution is to come clean. As always, leave that to him.

Paint the town tomate

People throw tomatoes at each other, during the annual "tomatina" tomato fight fiesta in the village of Bunol, 50 kilometres outside Valencia, Spain, Wednesday. ALBERTO SAIZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish village goes pulp after annual tomato fight fest

The streets of an eastern Spanish town were awash with red pulp today, as thousands of people pelted each other with tomatoes during Tomatina, the world's most famous food fight.

Every year, the fiesta begins at around 10 a.m. with what's known as the palo jabon, in which brave revellers attempt to climb a greased pole to reach a ham, which has been placed at the top.

Then a loud signal begins the onslaught of tomato madness. Tonnes and tonnes of specially grown tomatoes are thrown into the town's main plaza, where they're crushed, so as not to cause injury.

The fight lasts an hour and covers the whole town square with red pulp. A large-scale cleaning operation ensues, involving fire hoses.

This is the second year non-resident participants were charged to take part. The town of about 20,000 people began charging to help pay off debts of some 5.5 million euros.

DAILYMAIL.CO.UK

By the numbers

125 tonnes

Amount of tomatoes dumped by trucks for 22,000 participants to pelt each other with.

MetroTube

Urban elites: That's not how you eat sushi

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

We're all sophisticated city folk, right? We're urban elites, which means we like to fill the time between latte-sipping with such highbrow pursuits as eating sushi. But you can't just go stuffing it in your face like some kind of animal. A delicate dish deserves a delicate touch, and sushi chef Naomichi Yasuda is happy to teach us. (YouTube/Munchies)

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Letters

Re: Indian youth celebrate Janmashtami festival, published Aug. 18. 2014

Last week, your paper carried an article about the festival "Janmasthami," which marks the birth of Krishna. The news item made a silly, sour reference to the divine representation, by using the expression "The Hindu God Krishna". One feels transported to the 18th or 19th century, when sundry travellers and Christian missionaries would use this type of terminology. "Krishna" is God represented in a certain manner, anthropomorphically. The supreme being is simply depicted in that way. It is not "God" apart from "God" in the Christian religion or "Allah" in Islam, or Yahweh in Judaic lore. It's the same God, that is the belief. **Varun Shekhar, Toronto**

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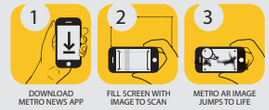

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Calgary's Paul Brandt is hoping 12th time is the charm for award

Canadian Country Music Awards. Despite racking up countless successes over his career, one prize has eluded the singer — fans' choice — and he's eyeing it again this year

JENNIFER LARAWAY
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Paul Brandt knows what he wants and isn't afraid to go after it.

Once upon a time his dreams included becoming a medical practitioner, like other members of his family. Brandt loved working at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary and assumed he would stay in the medical field while he dabbled in his musical passion.

Fate, however, had different plans. "I was entering talent competitions as a hobby because I loved to sing," he recalls. "Then one night, I came home and there was a message from Warner Nashville saying we think you are real good and want to come see your band play. But, I didn't even have a band. I was playing songs for people in my basement. But, at that moment, I knew something was up."

Brandt seized the opportunity by pulling together some friends, and the rest is history.

His first single, My Heart Has A History, went No. 1 in Canada. That song also propelled Brandt into the international spotlight, as he became the first Canadian country singer to reach America's Top 10 Billboard Hot Country Songs since Hank Snow in 1974.

The past 20 years have brought Brandt a lot of recognition and unforgettable experiences. But one award has eluded him: the Canadian Country Music Fan Choice Award.

This year, Brandt is up for his 12th nomination in the category and jokes, "I feel like the Susan Lucci of the Canadian Country Music Awards," in reference to the soap opera actress who finally took home a Daytime Emmy award after 17 nominations.

"At first, I didn't think about it and then I realized, 'No, I really want to win this.' But honestly, win or lose, it's been great to have fun with people," says the singer, who released his latest song, Forever Summer, on Canada Day and is using a hashtag by the same name on social media to engage his fans and, hopefully, as an added bonus, finally snag the coveted trophy.

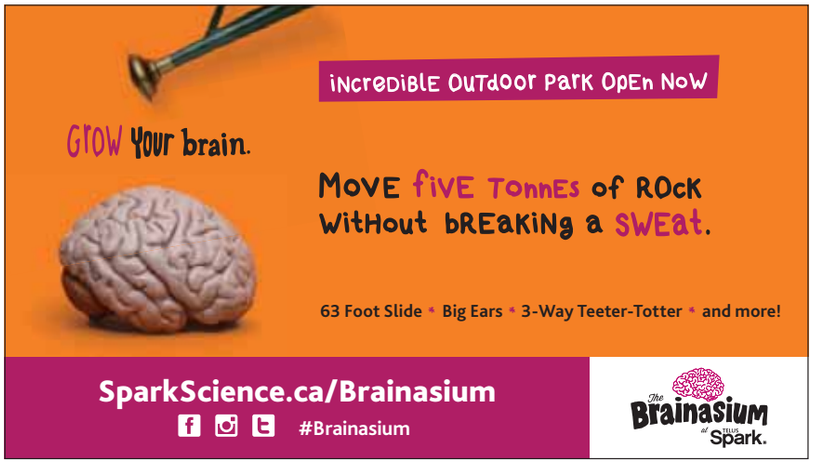
"I jumped up when I won that first award (in 1996). I was so excited to get that pat on the back from the industry. I still get that feeling no matter how many statues are on the mantel."

Brandt will also be performing at the CCMAs in Edmonton on Sept. 7.

Details

- Brandt is the most awarded male Canadian country music artist in history.
- To vote for fans' choice, visit ccma.org and select CCMA Fans' Choice Award.
- Tickets to the show range from $55 to $95, plus fees.

Calgary's Paul Brandt performs at this year's Canadian Country Music Awards in Edmonton and hopes to snag his first fans' choice award after 12 nominations. COURTESY PAUL BRANDT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The boys flip the bird at mainstream TV

Swearnet. The foul-mouthed trio from Sunnyvale ditch their Trailer Park alter egos and get autobiographical

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

The artists formerly known as the Trailer Park Boys have found themselves a new set of characters to play — themselves.

In their latest comedy Swearnet, actors Mike Smith, Robb Wells and J.P. Tremblay play fictionalized versions of themselves so frustrated with the confines of mainstream television, they decide to start an online network where cursing is celebrated. As outrageous as that sounds, the premise is actually semi-autobiographical.

"A lot of it was taken from real life," explained Tremblay recently. "We pitched some TV show ideas to networks and (they'd ask) is this going to go as the Trailer Park Boy characters. It was kind of frustrating."

It wasn't a surprising turn of events. The boys witnessed their host network (Showcase) become increasingly restrictive with swearing as the popularity of the show grew over its seven seasons. "They had basically changed their format," said Smith about the network whose logo used to be Television Without Borders. "They had very specific borders so it didn't really fit in there anymore and you can't be bleeping that show. You don't really notice how much swearing there is because it's just natural. Once you bleep it, you notice it."

What shouldn't be too surprising is Swearnet's stunning amount of cursing. In fact, the film is so chock full of foul language, audiences tend to become numb to the depravity. As Smith points out, "you don't realize you're listening to a world record being set."

In a sort of meta-twist, the Halifax threesome aren't just releasing the movie this Friday; they are actually starting up Swearnet and hope to populate the web-based network with all sorts of curse-laden programs.

"Ideally, we would like to get it to the point where we could have some version of a morning show and news and weather and sports — anything you see on a regular network," said Smith.

"But on these shows people swear, they just talk the way people talk."

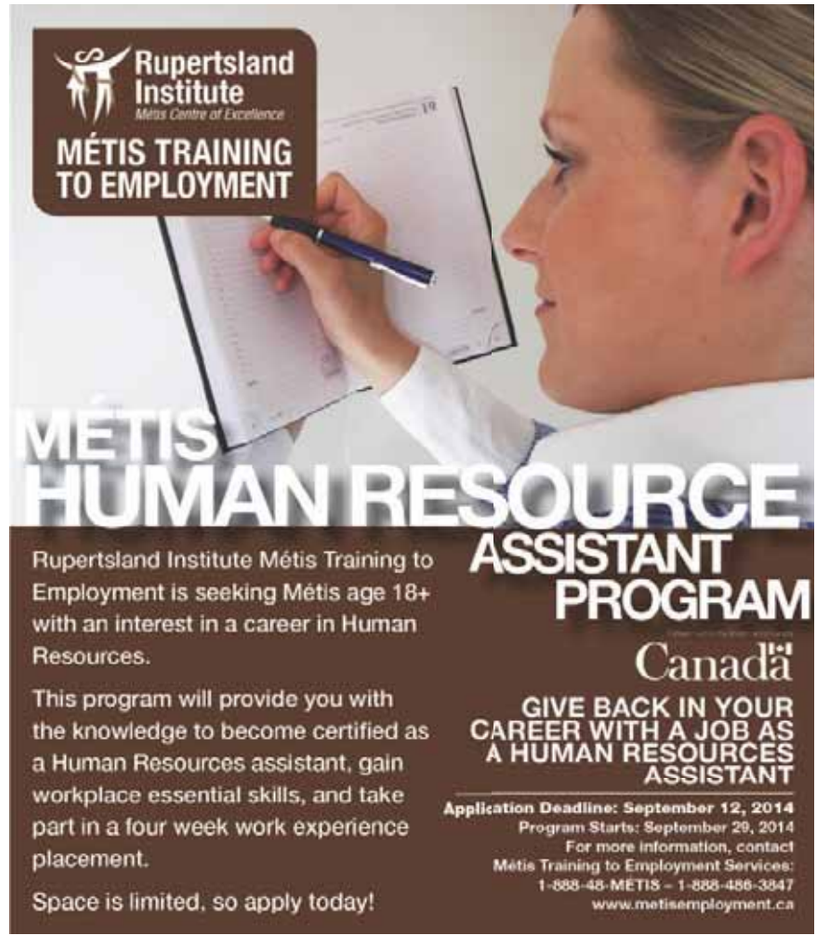
On being censored

"It was really frustrating us because without swearing it totally changes our comedy, our sense of humour," said Tremblay. "It's an important tool to what we do and what we write."

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ We have to bleep out all the swearing in this trailer, but you get the idea! Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see the clip!
→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Robb Wells, Mike Smith and J.P. Tremblay leave their Trailer Park Boys personas behind and play themselves in Swearnet, which opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED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CH176742
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CH864299
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Montreal Canadiens' P.K. Subban looks on as Seth Rogen performs Hilarity for Charity in Montreal. CONTRIBUTED

Humour helps fight against 'incredibly depressing disease'

Hilarity for Charity. Seth Rogen and his wife organize televised comedy benefit show for Alzheimer's

When Lauren Miller Rogen and her funnyman husband Seth Rogen began doing comedy benefits in support of Alzheimer's, they weren't sure how to convey the gravity of the disease while also entertaining audiences.

"We hardly mentioned Alzheimer's," Miller Rogen recalled of the initial Hilarity for Charity gala in 2013. "Alzheimer's is, unfortunately, an incredibly depressing disease. There are no survivors. No one can get up there and tell their tale of how they survived Alzheimer's and came out on the other side."

"It's a really delicate balance between the brutal reality of Alzheimer's and what you have to do to keep people excited and involved."

At the second event, Miller Rogen spent a few minutes onstage talking about how the disease has affected her own life (two of her grandparents were afflicted and her mother was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's at age 55, when Miller Rogen was just 25).

The pair eventually found a tone they felt comfortable with and staged more shows — including an event at Montreal's Just for Laughs festival, which will air Sunday on the Comedy Network.

Miller Rogen said the locale seemed like a natural fit for her husband, the Vancouver-raised star of Superbad and Knocked Up.

"Everyone immediately thought, well, we have to highlight the Canadian-ness of it all ... I think they just thought, what could they do that would excite people the most? And that's what happened ... ketchup chips, doughnut holes and drinking from the Stanley Cup."

Featuring a lineup that includes comedians Hannibal Buress and Jim Norton, actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt and hockey star P.K. Subban, the full 90-minute special will be available on demand following the broadcast at TheComedyNetwork.ca and Comedy GO.

Mixed among the laughs is a goal to raise money and to educate young people about Alzheimer's, a mission that was borne out of Miller Rogen's experience after her mother's diagnosis.

"It really became quickly apparent to me how alone I felt in that situation," she said. "But I knew I wasn't alone. I just felt that way.

"Alzheimer's is stereotypically a disease that is considered one that affects old people ... but while people who are older get it, it's a disease unlike many others in how it affects the entire family, because of the level of caregiving that's involved, and so young people are incredibly touched by Alzheimer's every day."

Although her family is still grappling with the disease, Miller Rogen says the rewards from Hilarity for Charity have been immediate.

"It's so incredible ... almost daily I hear from people. I feel so lucky to do this and get to experience that, because I really was truly feeling so helpless and sad and angry and I don't really anymore."

Funny and sad

"It's a really delicate balance between the brutal reality of Alzheimer's and what you have to do to keep people excited and involved."

Lauren Miller Rogen, charity organizer

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince-Warner get fresh start with two September releases

Double whammy. With their epic dispute finally at an end, the pop star and major label are reuniting

Prince is set to release two new albums with Warner Bros. AFP FILE

Pop star Prince will release two new albums at the end of September, his record label said this week, marking the end of one of the longest-running employment disputes in musical history.

Prince, 56, fell out with Warner Bros Records in the early 1990s, prompting him to change his name to an unpronounceable symbol and appear in public with the word "slave" daubed across his face.

The name change bewildered fans and led the press to dub him "The Artist Formerly Known as Prince."

But following a reconciliation with Warner Bros Records announced earlier this year, two albums — Art Official Age and Plectrumelectrum — will be released on Sept. 30, the label said on its website. Art Official Age is a 13-track solo album, described by the label as "a contemporary concoction of soul, R&B and funk."

The second is by Prince's new band 3RDEYEGIRL consisting of guitarist Donna Grantis, drummer Hannah Ford Welton and bassist Ida Nielsen.

Many of its "funk-rock" tracks were performed live on the group's recent mini-tour.

Warner Bros acknowledged the acrimonious dispute with the star — who it first signed in 1977 — in the announcement.

The renewed partnership came about after it "returned to Prince the master recordings of his pioneering 1980s albums, including Dirty Mind, Purple Rain and Sign o' the Times, it said.

The singer had demanded that he should retain the original master tapes of his albums.

Prior to the reconciliation with Warner Bros Records, Prince had used his own NPG Records label to release his more recent records. AFP

Blade Runner 2. Scott continues push for a followup to his 1982 sci-fi classic

Ridley Scott remains bullish on the prospective followup to his 1982 sci-fi success Blade Runner.

The director has a busy schedule, with a Prometheus sequel to follow this December's epic Exodus: Of Gods and Kings, while The Martian sends Matt Damon into an outer space survival situation with shooting to begin in November.

A Blade Runner sequel remains in the cards, with Scott telling Entertainment Weekly "it's written and it's damn good."

"Of course it involves Harrison (Ford), who is a survivor after all these years, despite the accident," he joked, in reference to Ford's recent leg injury on the set of Star Wars VII.

"So yes, that will happen."

Also on the team would be Hampton Fancher, who worked with Scott in turning Philip K. Dick's novel Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? into Blade Runner in the first place.

British director Ridley Scott
BEN STANSALL/AFP

Quoted

"Of course it involves Harrison (Ford), who is a survivor after all these years ... So yes, that will happen."

Director Ridley Scott. Scott said he plans to include Harrison Ford's Rick Deckard character in any Blade Runner sequel.

But before that: The Martian. With a November 2015 release date already set, Scott said he was looking to Hungarian capital Budapest for one location, as well as Jordanian valley Wadi Rum, a 720-square-kilometre rocky desert wilderness already known as The Valley of the Moon.
AFP

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Michelle Rodriguez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Tired of partying with Zac, Rodriguez returns to NYC and former female flame

Now that her summer fling with Zac Efron is behind her, Michelle Rodriguez is reportedly seeking comfort back in the arms of model Cara Delevingne, with whom she split before taking up with Efron, according to Radar Online. But don't call it a comeback — yet.

"Michelle needed to get away from Zac, and she got away from him by going to New York to see Cara. Michelle missed Cara's company," a source says.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Cara and Michelle are hooking up again. Cara is a girl — and it's no secret that Michelle likes that."

There's also the suggestion that recently rehabbed Efron might not be behaving himself as much as his publicist would like everyone to think. "Cara doesn't party in the same way that Zac does," the source added. "Part of the reason that Michelle and Zac broke up was because she couldn't handle his partying."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Fan with phone busts Bieber's Buster's date with Selina

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Justin Bieber has probably had better weeks — I mean, I'm just guessing here.

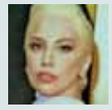
First, he tries taking Selena Gomez out for a nice night at arcade funhouse Dave & Buster's — because of course he would — but he can't even enjoy a game of Need for Speed because a fan tried to snap some cellphone pictures of the pair, sending Bieber into a Wolverine-style berserker rage (because he's Canadian, get it?).

Bieber reportedly lunged at the man, grabbing for his phone, but was thwarted by his own security guards before he could make contact. (Do they get a bonus every time they have to stop Bieber from starting a fight he can't win? Because I hope so.)

Police were called, Bieber hit the skids, and now he's being investigated for attempted robbery, theft and battery since the fan — whom I'm starting to think isn't such a fan after all — is looking to press charges, according to TMZ.

It's probably nothing really worth worrying about, except Bieber is still on probation for egging his neighbour's house. Where was his security detail then, huh?

Twitter



@ladygaga
I just played with Queen
I'm the happiest girl alive!

@thandienewton
The kid just hooked me up with emojis — where the hell is my emoji?! Did the creators not travel? Read magazines? Have TV? Books? friends?!

@ConanOBrien
I hope I never discover a genie when I'm really hungry, tired, or unhappy with my cellphone reception.

Jessica Alba

Alba's honest business valued at nearly $1 billion

Maybe Jessica Alba would be better served not worrying about the whole acting-career thing. The baby and household products line she co-founded, the Honest Company, has been valued at nearly $1 billion in advance of a potential IPO, according to the Wall Street Journal. Alba's company is expected to post revenue for 2014 in excess of $150 million, and it just raised an additional $70 million in venture capital.

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New season, old staples

Sale search. Now is the time to load up on tried-and-true wardrobe pieces as shops make room for their fresh fall looks

KATELYN ZBOROWSKI
life@metronews.ca

When most people hear the words "new arrivals," they immediately picture a monster-size credit card bill and shopping bags that really aren't full enough to justify the receipt hiding at the bottom.

Storefront displays filled with perfectly styled mannequins decked in fall's finest are enough to tempt anyone to give their credit card a workout, but the savvy Metro shopper knows better.

New arrivals don't need to cause price-tag panic. Why? It all comes down to the influx of new inventory and storage rooms that aren't quite big enough to handle it.

To break it down in a rhyme, when new arrivals come to play, last season leftovers simply can't stay.

And that means major savings for those who know where to look and for what.

So, what should shoppers seek? Lightweight, easy-to-layer textures.

When Preston Konrad, American Eagle Outfitters style director, was asked about the top item (no pun intended) to look out for, he shared the timeless classic: the cotton sweater.

Konrad says, "A cotton sweater is a great transition item.

"End of summer, it can be worn with shorts and cute sandals. Then, with a flannel and denim for early fall."

Sale shopping is about really getting into those racks and looking (read: hunting) for items that aren't overly trendy, but aren't so basic they bore you.

Neutrals are must-haves in any wardrobe, but so are items that express your personal style ... just so long as they don't break the bank.

When you do decide to stray from the sale signage and make a full-priced purchase, invest in something you'll get more than a single season out of.

Konrad shares that the new vegan motorcycle jacket from AEO is "perfectly tumbled and very detailed" and that you'll get a lot of wear from it.

He shares that women can easily wear it "with flannels and acid wash denim for a grunge look, or over a cool dress for a night out."

Is your style more "prep" than "punk"?

Fret not, there's still plenty in store this fall for you, too.

Just ask Elisha Ballantyne, Target Canada's divisional merchandise manager of apparel and accessories.

She says you can build up your fall wardrobe with easy-to-transition summer pieces by "layering lighter textures with heavier knits and denim."

So, stock up on sale button downs and lightweight tanks.

According to Ballantyne, "this fall, it's all about texture and pattern." Bring on the layers!

You'll find full-priced items that still feel like a steal.

The limited-edition Joseph Altuzarra for Target trench coat ($89.99, available Sept. 14), is the quintessential layering piece for the fall-winter season.

Throw it on top of your favourite summer sweater and patterned scarf for a street style section-worthy ensemble in a snap.

The basics

Joseph Altuzarra for Target, Trench Coat, $89.99 CONTRIBUTED

Forever 21, Frayed Paisley Scarf, $9.57 CONTRIBUTED

American Eagle Outfitters, Skinny Jeans, $44 CONTRIBUTED

Sole Society, Cutout Chevron Bangle, $27 CONTRIBUTED

American Eagle Outfitters, Boyfriend Cardigan, $33 CONTRIBUTED

ALDO, Sigiletto Boots, $165 CONTRIBUTED

Dash of spice and lots of soul

Creole Jambalaya. Louisiana cooking combines classical French, Spanish and Anglo-Saxon cuisines. This is a classic dish found all over the region

"This dish is a close cousin to Spanish paella and they say it originated in New Iberia, La., which was originally a Spanish settlement," write Frances Wood and Thessavan Maniceavasakan in the Southern Accent Cookbook.

"This is a good recipe for using up any leftover meats!"

The book also notes that when removed from the oven, the pot should remain covered as it will keep cooking and be ready to serve in 30 minutes.

"If you are planning to serve at a later time, transfer into an ice bath which will stop it cooking further. That way, when you are ready to serve and reheat, the rice will not overcook," write Wood and Maniceavasakan,

1. Combine spice mix and set aside.

2. Heat oil and sauté all meats with bay leaves for 8 minutes, add vegetables and sauté until tender-firm.

This recipe serves six to eight. ELIZABETH BEDDALL OF LIZBEDDALL.COM

3. Add spice mix and garlic and cook 3 minutes.

4. Stir, scraping pan bottom periodically.

5. Add plum tomatoes, chili sauce and tomato paste, and bring to a boil.

6. Add stock and return to a boil.

7. Add rice, stir well, and bring to a boil.

8. Cover and cook in oven at 400 F for 20 minutes.

9. Stir thoroughly when removed from oven. **RECIPE ADAPTED FROM SOUTHERN ACCENT COOKBOOK: OUR CAJUN, CREOLE & SOUL EXPERIENCE BY FRANCES WOOD AND THESSAVAN MANICEAVASAKAN (2014).**

Ingredients

Spice Mix
- 3 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cayenne
- 2 tsp ground white pepper
- 4 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp oregano
- 1 tsp thyme

- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups smoked ham, cubed
- 1 cup Andouille sausage, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups chicken or turkey breast
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 cups onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups green pepper, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups celery, chopped
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 2 cups plum tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chili sauce
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 1/2 - 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups rice

Cookbook of the Week

Bring Cajun and Creole to your table

Toronto staple Southern Accent restaurant commemorates its 30th anniversary with Southern Accent Cookbook. Written by founder Frances Wood and co-owner and chef Thessavan Maniceavasakan, the book offers a 144-page collection of recipes, images and anecdotes. It features recipes such as Hush Puppies, Blackened Chicken, Shrimp Etouffée, Bread Pudding and more. **METRO**

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All Canadian chicken are raised without the use of hormones and are free run.
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Localize 7.49/lb 16.51/kg
BEEF SHORT RIBS
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Pricing in effect Thursday, August 28 to Sunday, August 31, 2014. Actual items may vary slightly from illustrations. Some illustrations are serving suggestions only. We reserve the right to limit quantities. GST is extra where applicable.

Hold everything — it's fall!

It's time to clear the summer clutter and get ready for fall. There's no need to stuff everything in a closet. Try a more attractive approach to keeping your favourite things tidy with storage solutions that add style to every room in the house

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

This mirror's got you pegged

In the foyer: Check yourself out while taming those leashes, hats and scarves. Peggy Mirror, $359, UrbanMode.com.

Bevvie up to the bar cart

In the living room: Keep a cocktail party's worth of beverages and glassware on hand for lounging well into the night. Libations Bar Cart, $699, CrateAndBarrel.com.

Stow it below

In the bedroom: Gain the equivalent of an extra dresser by sliding drawers under your bed. Brusali Under-bed Storage Boxes, $42.50, IKEA.com.

A cozy case for champagne tastes

In the dining room: Keep your champagne flutes protected between grand affairs. Microfibre Flute Storage Case, $18, BedBathAndBeyond.ca.

Reach for the stars

In the kitchen: Keep your spices, sea salt or tea stored in Moroccan style. Denby Monsoon Alhambra Storage Jar, $30, TheBay.com.

Clear the way

In the bathroom: Perfectly clear acrylic disappears on the wall to float all your bath essentials. Format Storage Shelf, $80, CB2.com.

Coolest Cooler breaks Kickstarter records

Cooler for 21st century.
Campaign hauls in more than $10M in pledges

A beachside drinks and food cooler for the digital generation is now officially the most successful Kickstarter campaign of all time, raising an incredible $10.36 million in pledges, and the campaign is yet to close.

However, even though there are still three days left to run, the Coolest Cooler has already comfortably overtaken the Pebble smartwatch, which managed to bag $10.26 million in backing in May 2012.

And as the money has rolled in, the Cooler has become, well, cooler. When it ships to its first backers in February it will also have a retractable protective drawer for storing smartphones and the like, a removable rechargeable battery, and will be able to automatically pair with another Coolest Cooler for stereo speaker sound.

The Coolest Cooler Kickstarter campaign closes on Aug. 30, so there's still time to snap one up for $185 in time for next year's summer vacation. **AFP**

Chill companion

As well as insulating perishables from the elements, the Coolest Cooler has:

- **An integrated battery-powered blender for smoothies and cocktails.**
- **A water-resistant Bluetooth speaker.**
- **A built-in chopping board.**
- **A USB charger for keeping smartphones powered up.**
- **Chunky tires for easy rolling over the sand.**

The Coolest Cooler. COOLEST

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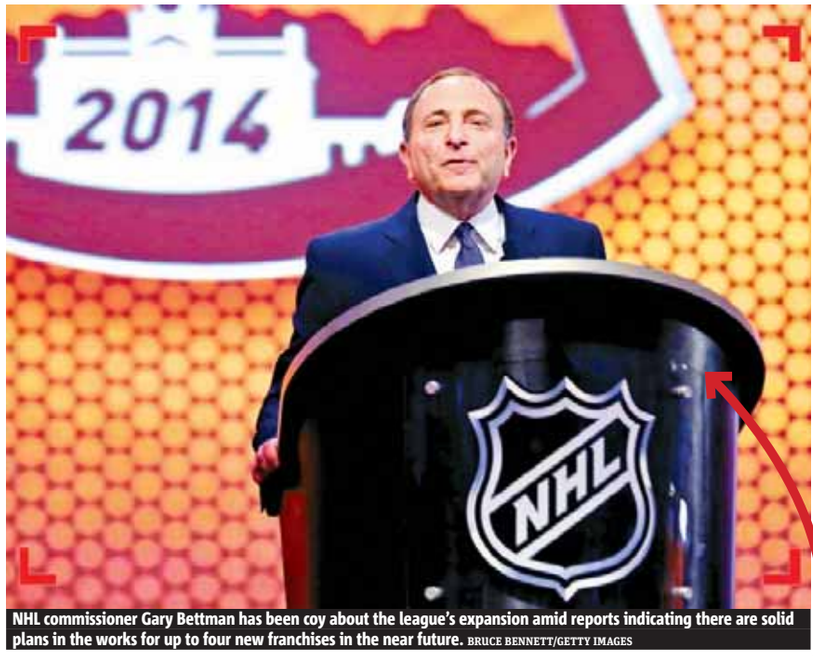
SPORTS 4

NHL expansion: Is it a fact or fad?

Coming soon? Top brass non-committal but 'done deal' reports fuel speculation



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has been coy about the league's expansion amid reports indicating there are solid plans in the works for up to four new franchises in the near future. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

NHL expansion is likely coming in the near future, though the league hasn't committed to any official plan just yet.

For more than a year, commissioner Gary Bettman has said the NHL is listening when approached by cities interested in acquiring a team, even though there's no formal expansion process underway. Amid reports this week indicating solid plans are in place, deputy commissioner Bill Daly said there's "nothing new to report on this subject."

Status quo doesn't necessarily mean the NHL won't eventually expand to Las Vegas, as the Vancouver Province reported Tuesday was a "done deal." And it doesn't necessarily discount the possibility of adding four teams by 2017, one each in Las Vegas, Seattle and Quebec City and a second in Toronto, as SportsBusinessNews.com reported via Twitter.

Getting to 32 teams sooner rather than later would make sense for a league that moved to unbalanced conferences with 16 teams in the East and 14 in the West beginning last season.

Officially, expansion is not on the agenda. But that doesn't stop the speculation.

"We listen when people say, 'We'd like to come visit you and tell you why we're interested and where we're interested,'" Bettman said in June.

Plenty of cities are interested, including Portland, Hamilton and Kansas City. But even with a new, lucrative Canadian TV deal and growing revenues, the NHL doesn't have to rush into anything.

Expansion is tempting because fees don't count toward hockey-related revenue, which gets split between owners and players.

Any expansion fee, which could run in the neighbourhood of $300 million or more, depending on the market, would be money the owners don't have to share.

Getting to 32 teams — 16 in the East and 16 in the West — makes for better playoff math and easier scheduling and would also tie the NHL with the NFL as the leagues with the most teams.

Any kind of expansion requires approval from the board of governors. The NHL hasn't expanded since 2000, when the Columbus Blue Jackets and Minnesota Wild joined the league. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Use your Metro News app to scan the photo above and find out more pros and cons of the four main cities in contention for a new NHL franchise.

metro AR → See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Back over .500

Stroman, Valencia lead Jays to first win in four games

A strong outing by rookie pitcher Marcus Stroman and a three-run homer by pinch-hitter Danny Valencia, his first as a Blue Jay, lifted Toronto to a 5-2 win over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night.

Toronto scored four runs — including two unearned — in the seventh inning with Valencia's bat leading the way. That made a winner out of Stroman, who was on cruise control other than hitting a two-run bump in the sixth inning.

Jose Bautista also homered for Toronto for the second day in a row as the Jays (67-66) snapped a string of three losses — and four extra-innings games.

Earlier in the day, the Blue Jays recalled right-handed pitcher Chad Jenkins from triple-A Buffalo of the International League and designated right-hander Sergio Santos for assignment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clippers

Rivers signs on for 5 more years

Doc Rivers is staying to coach the Los Angeles Clippers for another five years.

In Steve Ballmer's first big move since taking over as the new owner, he gave Rivers a contract extension through the 2018-19 season.

Rivers was a stabilizing force for the franchise during the upheaval created by former owner Donald Sterling's racist remarks that led to his ouster after 33 years of ownership.

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Ex-Dino lineman anxious to get back on gridiron

Linden Gaydosh.
After getting released by NFL's Panthers, defensive lineman could land in Hamilton

Patience is not exactly Linden Gaydosh's forte.

The six-foot-four, 305-pound defensive lineman says he's "going stir crazy" dealing with the uncertainty that is his fledgling pro football career.

Gaydosh, taken first overall by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in last year's CFL draft, was released Sunday by the Carolina Panthers and will wait for the NFL's final cutdown this weekend to see if he can land a practice-roster spot with another team.

If not, then the 23-year-old native of Peace River, Alta., will gladly sign with the Ticats.

Linden Gaydosh
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"I've had nothing to do for the last four days, I'm going stir crazy walking around trying to find something to keep me busy," he said via telephone Wednesday from Charlotte, N.C. "I just want to know where I'll be.

"It's the indecision I don't like."

And then there's the matter of trying to pass the time getting a decent workout at the gym in his apartment complex.

"It's kind of depressing considering what I just had a few days ago," Gaydosh said with a chuckle. "I think the heaviest dumbbell here is 60 pounds.

"It's not quite in my weight range."

Gaydosh was indeed a heavyweight during his collegiate career with the Calgary Dinos. He was Canadian university football's top rookie in 2009 and helped Calgary reach the 2010 Vanier Cup, earning defensive MVP honours after returning an interception 20 yards for a TD in the team's 56-3 Hardy Cup win over Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Redblacks

Ottawa tables an offer to Dressler

The Ottawa Redblacks are making a play for coveted slotback Weston Dressler.

Redblacks general manager Marcel Desjardins said Wednesday he has made a contract offer to the former Saskatchewan Roughrider, who cleared NFL waivers Tuesday after being released by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Ottawa isn't the only team to have made a pitch to Dressler. A CFL source requesting anonymity said Saskatchewan has also offered him a deal.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tiger-Cats

Zach Collaros back at practice

Zach Collaros has resumed practising with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

The CFL club announced it has pulled Collaros off the six-game injured list and that he practised with the team Wednesday. The Ticats haven't ruled him out of Monday's game against the Argos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Third round in her reach

Maria Sharapova serves against Alexandra Dulgheru during their women's singles second-round match of the U.S. Open on Wednesday in New York. Sharapova, a five-time major champion, rallied from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Frank Dancevic of Niagara Falls, Ont., fought for more than 3-1/2 hours before losing his first-round match to Joao Sousa 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (2). CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES FOR USTA

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Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers.
It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you feel trapped by your current situation you must find ways to cut yourself free. You have your own plans and intend to follow them.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Be on your guard today, especially when dealing with money matters. There is a danger someone will try to cheat you, and if your mind is elsewhere they may succeed.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A difference of opinion may be annoying but it is of no real importance, so don't go to war over it. Be confident enough in your own beliefs that you don't need other people's approval.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
With Mars, planet of ego, moving through the most dynamic area of your chart you could not care less what other people think.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may fall out with someone you live with but nothing bad is likely to come of it. Whose fault it was in the first place is unimportant – what matters is that you move on together.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will need to take steps to control negative feelings. Be especially careful what you say in front of important people. Criticism won't go down well.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will make your point more effectively today if you stay calm and back up your arguments with facts that can't be denied.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you are too aggressive today, it could have consequences. Try not to take anything too seriously and try not to take what others say personally.

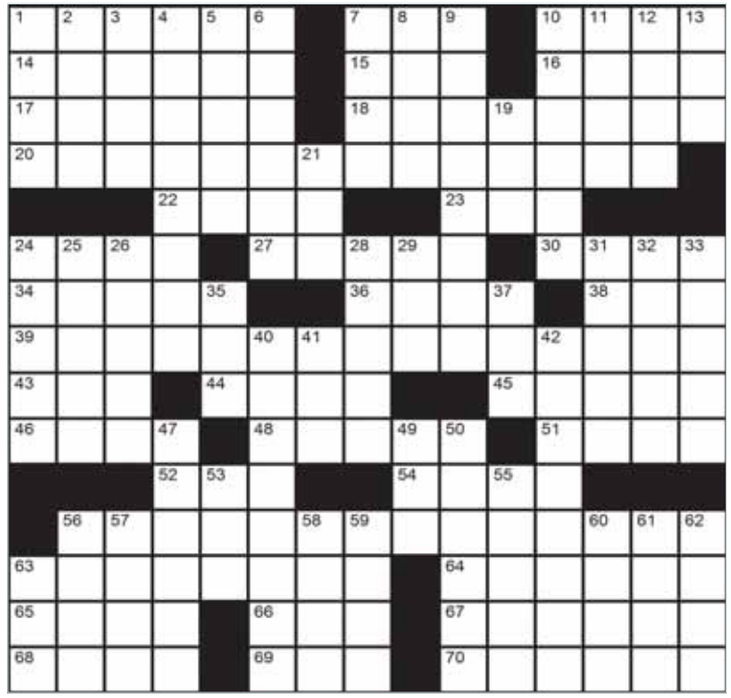
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll have to make a difficult choice. Don't worry what others may think of it. Worry only that if you don't act soon the matter may be taken out of your hands once and for all.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The best way to boost your confidence is to tackle tasks that require total concentration. The less time you have to worry about problems, the more likely it is they'll resolve themselves.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Be careful what you say over the next 24 hours, especially when dealing with powerful people. You may have strong feelings about certain issues but keep them to yourself.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You feel obliged to favour one thing over another but is it for the best? The planets indicate you have been pushed in that direction by people who have a vested interest in what you do.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



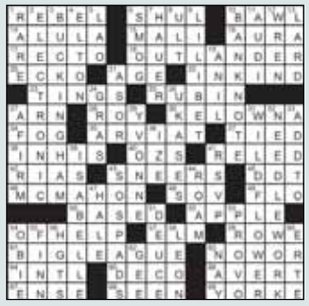
Across

1. Beatles guru, Maharishi __ Yogi
7. __ Hortons
10. Sporty striped shirts, shortly
14. Bob Dylan's "A Hard Rain's _-__ Fall"
15. Charles Dickens: Bleak House girl
16. Cholers
17. Steve __, "The Six Million Dollar Man" character
18. Southern Alberta village
20. Bit of Kim Stockwood's "Jerk": "I used to want some explanation / Now all I want is __ __ __ __."
22. "Makes sense now!": 2 wds.
23. "Tsk!"
24. Hawk
27. "Key __" (1948)
30. Duration
34. A Lesson from __ (Athol Fugard play)
36. Dionne Warwick's "Walk __ __"
38. Alter __
39. 2005 Rachel McAdams movie: 2 wds.
43. West __ (The Great Gatsby setting)
44. US campus mil. program
45. "American Pie" Chevy-driving spot
46. Like bottled hair
48. House sections
51. Actress Nikki
52. Toreador's taunt
54. Some soil
56. __-_-__-__ (Quebec locale which in English is called Whale Head)
63. Name of the Calgary Stampeders touchdown horse: 2 wds.
64. Baby cat
65. Latin 'year'
66. 1
67. Synchronicity
68. Feel
69. Days opp.
70. Nuts

Down

1. Lady's address
2. "_ __ Named Joe"
3. Setting of Global TV's "Remedy" [abbr.]
4. Required/meant
5. Vexed states
6. Fairytale brother
7. Sprinkled sweat-stopping stuff
8. Fan's favourite
9. Winnipeg: __ Legislative Building (More at #42-Down)
10. Does like Rosie in WWII
11. "All By Myself" by __ Carmen
12. Audio __
13. NNE opposite
19. Wildebeest
21. Politician's positive
24. Did carpentry
25. Dirge
26. Veronica of Archie Comics
28. Celebrity chef Mr. DiSpirito
29. "Patience" rock gr.
31. Annoy
32. Concur
33. Hard-__ (Tough)
35. Formal fellow
37. Fashionable monogram
40. "Just wondering, that's all.": 2 wds.
41. '60s lettered car
42. Symbols.Hidden Meanings.Cyphers... __ Code Tour, at the architectural marvel at #9-Down
47. E-business
49. Blue Jays org.
50. "____ the Sun" by Sheryl Crow
53. Currency in Albania
55. Skirt style
56. Melody
57. Mozart's "__ Kleine Nachtmusik"
58. Dryer's fluff
59. Choppers
60. "__ _ date!"
61. Vegas illuminator
62. Austrian river
63. '_' __ in Quebec

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

6								5
7			9		5			8
		9	3	6	2	4		
	9		8		7		6	
	1						3	
	2		1		6		8	
		8	4	1	3	9		
9			5		8			3
1								2

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	9	8	2	7	4	3	5
3	7	8	4	5	6	1	2	9
2	5	4	3	1	9	6	7	8
8	9	5	6	4	2	3	1	7
6	1	2	5	7	3	9	8	4
7	4	3	1	9	8	2	5	6
5	3	7	9	6	1	8	4	2
4	8	6	2	3	5	7	9	1
9	2	1	7	8	4	5	6	3

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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